

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /059 W
-----240219Z 107629 /73
R 231407Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8442

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, GR
SUBJECT: GREEK PARLIAMENT APPROVES 1977 GREEK BUDGET

REF: ATHENS 13125

1. PARLIAMENT APPROVED THE GREEK STATE BUDGET AS REPORTED
REFTEL THIS WEEK WITH THE LARGE MAJORITY HELD BY CARAMANLIS'
PARTY, 189 TO 42. ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES VOTED AGAINST IT, WITH
THE EXCEPTION OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES WHICH WERE APPROVED BY
229 TO 2 (THE KKE EXTERIOR VOTED NO).

2. THE MAJOR CRITICISM OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES WAS THAT
THE BUDGET IS DEFICIT-FINANCED AND THEREFORE INFLATIONARY.
THEY ALSO CALLED FOR HIGHER EXPENDITURES ON EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES, TAX AND OTHER REFORMS THAT WOULD BENEFIT
LOWER INCOME GROUPS, AND EFFECTIVE CONTROLS ON PUBLIC INVEST-
MENT AND TAX EVASION. PASOK SAID THE GOG LACKED A
COMPREHENSIVE AND CONSISTENT ECONOMIC POLICY WITH CLEARLY-
DEFINED GOALS.

3. GOG SPOKESMEN, DEFENDING THE BUDGET, POINTED OUT
THAT THE NEED FOR LARGE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES PRECLUDES
HIGHER ALLOCATIONS IN OTHER SECTORS. FINANCE MINISTER
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DEVLETOGLOU NOTED THAT SPECIAL TAXES ON HIGHER INCOME
GROUPS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS WOULD YIELD 35 TO 40 BILLION
DRACHMAS IN ADDITION TO DIRECT TAXES. MOREOVER, HE SAID, REAL
INCOMES OF WORKING CLASSES HAVE INCREASED BETWEEN 10 AND
15 PERCENT.
KUBISCH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, GOVERNMENT BUDGET, BUDGETS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS13575
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760471-0920
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761214/aaaaamgt.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ATHENS 13125
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <23 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK PARLIAMENT APPROVES 1977 GREEK BUDGET
TAGS: EFIN, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006